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NCBC GULFPORT  
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LETTER FROM U S AIR FORCE IN RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY CONCERN FOR TCDD  
CONTAMINATION AND CONTAINMENT NCBC GULFPORT MS  
6/20/1981  
U S AIR FORCE

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE ENGINEERING AND SERVICES CENTER  
TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA 32403



Mr. Brad Musick  
103 Elena Court  
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39520

Dear Mr. Musick

I can understand the concern expressed in your letter of June 19, 1981, that TCDD be contained and controlled at NCBC. I will answer your questions in the order presented in your letter (copy attached).

1) We attempted, but failed due to lack of available specimens, to collect biological samples outside the perimeters of NCBC during the last two samplings (September 1980 and May 1981). Biological samples were collected before the point where the drainage ditches exit NCBC, which should provide similar information to that collected outside the perimeters. We will attempt to collect biological samples outside the perimeters of NCBC during future samplings.

2) The "recent" samples referred to by Colonel Mabson were collected during May 19-20, 1981.

3) We anticipate the award of a contract to a civilian laboratory for analysis of the site monitoring samples within a month. It will take a considerable amount of time to analyze all backlogged samples. Hopefully, all samples will be analyzed within one year. Analyses will be performed in order of priority, with the highest priority given to samples which would confirm that the TCDD is not being transported off-site.

4) Presently, we plan to continue the site monitoring program with samples being collected every six months, however, we will continue to evaluate the sampling schedule to determine if sampling frequency should be decreased or increased. ~~The next sampling is scheduled for November 1981.~~

Results of NCBC sample analyses will be sent to Mr. Claude Anderson, Code 12.1, Building 60, NCBC, Gulfport, Mississippi 39501. You should contact him for a copy of the results. I anticipate that some results will be available by October 1981. If I can be of further assistance concerning this matter, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely

*Ronald E. Channell*  
RONALD E. CHANNELL, Capt, USAF  
Chief, Environmental Chemistry  
Branch

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Your Letter, June 19, 1981

Cy to: Mr Claude Anderson

103 Elena Court  
Bay Saint Louis, MS 39520

June 29, 1981

Captain Ronald E. Channell, Chief  
Environmental Chemistry  
Air Force Engineering and Services Center  
Tyndall AFB, FL 32403

Dear Capt. Channell:

I am writing on behalf of the Gulf Coast Group of the Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club. Some residents of Gulfport, Mississippi have asked us to determine whether TCDD contamination of drainageways leading from the former Agent Orange storage site on the NCBC presents any current hazard to human health.

Col. William E. Mabson of the USAF/OEHL, Brooks AFB, recently sent me their 1979 environmental monitoring report (OEHL TR-79-169) and suggested I contact your laboratory for further information. Col. Mabson stated that he had recently learned that your laboratory was currently arranging for analysis of two sets of samples, one collected in September 1980 and the other collected recently.

We were pleased to learn that environmental monitoring is continuing, but a few questions remain:

- 1) Do the samples that will soon be analyzed include at least some samples collected outside the perimeters of NCBC?
- 2) When were the "recent" samples referred to by Col. Mabson collected?
- 3) When will analysis of the samples you now hold be completed?
- 4) Are there firm plans for continued monitoring, or will a decision be made after analysis of the samples already collected?

We would also like to know if you could send us results of the upcoming analyses when they become available.

- We trust that with your assistance we will be able to reassure the Gulfport residents who have expressed concern.

Sincerely,

*Brad Musick*  
Brad Musick

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